(b) if so, the date on which it was received;

(c) whether the clearance is still pending;

(d) if so, the reasons for such a long period of pendency; and

(e) the time likely to be taken by Government for according approval?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Government had received the proposal seeking environmental clearance for establishment of an All Weather Port (Minor) at Dholera, Gujarat in March, 2001.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The project could be accorded clearance under the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 only on 18.4.2006 as the complete information was received from the project authorities only on 27.2.2006.

(e) Does not arise.

Authority for testing sources of soft drinks

*427. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of allegations of presence of pesticides in soft drinks;

(b) whether Government would constitute a separate authority to test samples of source of bottling of soft drinks; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure safety in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (c) The Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has released a report on 2.8.2006 entitled "Analysis of Pesticide Residues in Soft Drinks".

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare constituted an Expert Committee on 4.8.2006 to review the CSE Report including the methology adopted by CSE. The conclusion of the Expert Committee is that the report of CSE does not provide conclusive evidence for presence of different pesticides in the concentration reported. The

specific observations of the Committee are that:—

- The report does not provide details required for the confirmatory interpretation of quantum results.
- The residue data reported based on GC-Mass confirmation is inconclusive.
- The prevalence of different isomers of HCH (Hexa chloro cyclohexane) are in contradiction to their biological nature. Further, no confirmatory evidence are provided to support the result as per normal practice.
- Malathion undergoes hydrolysis in acidic medium of soft drinks. Hence, its residue in such a concentration is technically unlikely. Further, GC MS chromatogram provided by CSE also confirms absence of Malathion.
- Heptachlor is banned in the country from 1996. Hence, its Presence in such concentration is unlikely. Further, GC MS chromatogram provided by CSE also confirms absence of Heptachlor.
- Chlorpyrifos the mass fragmentation pattern of standard (retention time of 19.36 minutes) and sample (retention time 18.54 minutes) points towards presence of chlorpyrifos residues in the sample. However, retention time of both do not match.

In view of the above inconsistencies, CSE has been asked to provide further data.

The standard and other regulatory provisions for checking the quality of carbonated water has been prescribed under PFA Rules, 1955. Provision already exists for drawing regular samples of food products from the manufactures, retailers etc. under the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act, 1954. This provision is implemented by State/UT Government who draw regular samples of various food products and take apropriate action under PFA Rules, 1955, if the samples are found not conforming with the standards under PFA Rules, 1955.

For monitoring the level of pesticides in carbonated water being sold in the country, I the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has already issued directions to all State Governments and Central Food Laboratories to take samples of carbonated water as well as the water used in the manufacture of carbonated water for checking the quality parameters including pesticide residues.